

BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
September 3, 2025

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council President Alan Heller opened the meeting at 6:30 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present at the meeting were Council members Alan Heller, John McClelland, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Howard Barger, and Mayor Matthew Carlson. Also, present were Zoning Officer Larry Moyer, James Speth, Attorneys Brian Spaid and Alex Spaid.

III. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

IV. REVIEW AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

A. Mr. Spaid stated new sections will be added to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. Section 423 will define the regulations for all solar energy systems including Principal Solar Energy Systems and Accessory Solar Energy Systems. Section 424 will address regulations applicable to all Accessory Solar Energy Systems. Section 425 will address regulations applicable to Principal Solar Energy Systems. Mr. Spaid said the Venango County Planning Commission sent a letter with some suggested amendments; those of which are not included in this proposed ordinance. Mr. Spaid does plan on working on the suggestions given by the County and amending this ordinance in the near future. He said the suggestions address more of the screening process, applicable areas, etc., but this ordinance gives the Borough a starting point and another public hearing will need to be held.

V. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

A. Mr. Barger, Mr. Goughler, and Mr. Heller stated they were in favor of adopting such regulations.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)

A. Craig Westover asked if there is a life time limit on the solar energy systems and is there a maximum acreage limit. Also, is there a clean – up process for when the panels no longer work. Mr. Spaid said there is a decommissioning security estimate in place and it will be no less than \$500,000, at the time of review for when they are no longer of use. Mr. Spaid said there is no time frame or time limit in the new ordinance. There is also set backs established in this ordinance, but no lot size limit. There is a minimum lot size of 10 acres for the Principal Solar Energy Systems.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Howard Barger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

Alan Heller, Council President